(c) if so, what are the parameters for selling these medicines after getting approval therefore and for issuing license for their production and the authority which fixes the arbitrary prices of the said medicines alongwith the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) The advertisements published in the press mainly relate to the cure of diseases by certain persons, but not to specific drugs or medicines. However, certain advertisements do appear in electronic media relating to drugs for treatment. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 which prohibits advertisements of drugs for certain specified diseases and conditions at present does not cover advertisement for "treatment" or practitioners, or the electronic media.

(b) Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, lays down the requirements for safety, efficacy, manufacture and sale of drugs. The Act also specify procedures to be followed for licensing of drugs for manufacture and compliance of Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure quality and safety of the drugs for use.

(c) Sale of drugs also require valid licences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under. Drugs are sold by the chemists as prescription and non prescription drugs. Prescription drugs are required to be sold on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. Major drugs for treatment of T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer, etc, are prescription drugs. Prices of drugs are regulated by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.

Free medicines to AIDS patients

†2057. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme to distribute AIDS drug free of cost to the affected persons was launched by the previous Government in the beginning of year 2004;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a target of one lakh patients for distribution of these medicines was fixed for that year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the targets achieved so far and how many AIDS patients are getting this medicine free of cost at present?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India launched free antiretroviral treatment on 1st April, 2004.

(b) The commitment to provide ART to 100,000 patients by end of 2005 was an aspiration. The targets as approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for ART with support from Global Fund under Round IV are as below:

	Targets	
Year	No. of ART Centres to be operational	No. of patients to be on ART
2005	25	5,000
2006	50	25,000
2007	120	50,000
2008	188	75,000
2009	188	125,000
2010	188	180,000

(c) Presently a total of 60638 patients are receiving free ART in Govt. facilities including inter-sectoral partners.

Non-working of dispensary on working days

2058. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ayurvedic dispensary in Janakpuri, New Delhi under C.G.H.S. remained closed on a number of working days on October, 2006;

(b) if so, the exact duration for which the dispensary remained closed which caused undue inconvenience and hardship to the users, particularly the senior citizens and the reasons for this; and